

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1296
ANSWERED ON 06.02.2026

PORT DEVELOPMENT AND INLAND WATERWAYS IN KERALA

1296. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

Will the Minister of PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS be pleased to state:

पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री

(a) the current status and phase-wise progress of the Vizhinjam International Seaport Project in Kerala, including targets achieved so far and the revised timeline for full commissioning;

(b) the details of central assistance and investments, including Viability Gap Funding, extended to the Vizhinjam Port project and the expenditure incurred till date;

(c) the funds allocated, released and utilised during the last five years for the development of inland waterways in Kerala, particularly the Vembanad–Kuttanad system, under National Waterway programmes;

(d) the physical progress and components of inland waterway works undertaken, including dredging, terminals, navigation aids and passenger/freight movement; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to enhance cargo handling, passenger transport, employment generation and environmental sustainability through port-led and inland waterway development in Kerala?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS
(SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)

(a): The Vizhinjam International Seaport Project is being developed under Public Private Partnership (PPP) model between the Government of Kerala (GoK) and Adani Vizhinjam Port Private Limited (AVPPL) for which a concession agreement was signed on 17.08.2015. The Phase I of the project became operational on 03.12.2024, with an annual handling capacity of 1 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs). The

Government of Kerala and the AVPPL, through a supplementary concession agreement dated 28.11.2024, have decided to implement Phase II, III and IV together as a single capacity augmentation phase with completion target of December 2028. This will increase the capacity to 3 million TEUs per annum with a potential to handle upto 5.7 million TEUs per annum through enhanced automation and operational efficiencies.

(b): The details of central assistance and investment including Viability Gap Funding (VGF) extended to the Vizhinjam International Seaport Project and the expenditure incurred till date are as under:.

- (i) Viability Gap Funding by Govt. of India (GoI): Rs. 817.80 crore – 100% expenditure incurred
- (ii) Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment by GoI:
 - FY 2023-24: Rs. 145.07 crore – 100% expenditure incurred
 - FY 2024-25: Rs. 1,134.52 crore – Rs. 1134.46 crore expenditure incurred
 - FY 2025-26: Rs. 341.30 crore sanctioned and first installment Rs. 225.258 crore released and Rs. 184 crore expenditure incurred as on 31.01.2026

(c): The details of expenditure incurred by Indian Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) during the last five years for development of inland waterways including Vembanad–Kuttanad system in Kerala is as under:

Financial Year	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Expenditure (in ₹ crore)	21.52	10.83	3.82	4.76	15.26

(d) and (e): The IWAI has undertaken various works in the declared National Waterways (NW) i.e. NW-3, NW-8 and NW-9 in the state of Kerala along with several measures for enhancement of cargo handling, passenger movement and employment generation which are as under:

- (i) Re-construction of navigation lock cum bridge at Thrikunnapuzha in NW- 3 (progress: 52%);
- (ii) Construction of new single lane bridge at Kovilthottam in Chavara in NW-3 (progress: 80%);
- (iii) Dredging and widening works including bank protection and removal of hard strata in Edapallikota – Kollam stretch in NW-3 (progress: 15%);

- (iv) Construction of 4 HDPE floating jetties at IWT terminals (progress: 10%) and construction of new survey launch (progress: 20%) in NW-3.

In addition, the IWAI has undertaken following initiatives for promotion of Inland Water Transport (IWT) in the state of Kerala:

- (i) Constructed 9 nos. Inland Water Transport Terminals (IWT) terminals cum godowns at Kottapuram, Aluva, Maradu, Vaikom, Thaneermukam, Alappuzha, Thrikunnappuzha, Kayamkulam and Kollam for cargo handling, and 2 nos. Roll on - Roll off (Ro-Ro) terminals at Bolgatty and Willington Island in NW-3 for Ro-Ro service to de-congest Kochi city traffic;
- (ii) Constructed 02 nos. Ro-Ro vessels through Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi and operating between Bolgatty and Willington Island in NW-3 through Kerala Shipping and Inland Navigation Corporation, Kochi (Govt. of Kerala) to de-congest the road in Kochi city;
- (iii) Navigational buoys installed in NW-3 (312 nos.), NW-8 (15 nos.) and NW-9 (25 nos.) for 24 hours safe navigation of vessels;
- (iv) Planned construction of 04 nos. HDPE jetties at IWT terminals (Vaikom, Thaneermukam, Alappuzha and Kayamkulam) for River Cruise Tourism in NW-3;
- (v) Undertaken feasibility studies such as Urban Water Transport at Alappuzha and Kollam through Kochi Water Metro Ltd.
